

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 /106 W
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R 231517Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3531
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 37430

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, CH, TW, XF, IS
SUBJECT: CHINESE VIEWS ON NORMALIZATION WITH U.S. AND
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SUMMARY: MIDDLE LEVEL CHINESE OFFICIALS IN PARIS WITH
WHOM WE SPOKE AT LENGTH VIEWED THE ONLY BARRIER TO THE
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AS THE
QUESTION OF TAIWAN. THEY SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF A
PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE TAIWAN PROBLEM. THEY
THOUGHT CHINA WOULD PREFER TO ACQUIRE ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGY IN THE UNITED STATES RATHER THAN EUROPE.
THEY APPROVED OF THE SADAT INITIATIVE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST, BUT STRESSED THE NECESSITY FOR ARAB UNITY AS A
PRECONDITION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE. THEY
ACCEPTED THE REALITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, AND
DISAGREED WITH THOSE ARAB STATES WHO SEEK ITS
DESTRUCTION. END SUMMARY.

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1. AT A PRIVATE SOCIAL EVENT OF DECEMBER 21, EMBOFF
HAD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS WITH PRC
EMBASSY CULTURAL AFFAIRS SECTION OFFICERS FIRST SECRE-
TARY HSU CHENG-HUA, AND THIRD SECRETARY WANG HUA.

2. CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES: POLITICAL
HSU AND WANG BOTH TOOK SEPARATE OPPORTUNITIES DURING

THE EVENING TO TELL EMBOFF PRIVATELY THAT THE SOLE BARRIER FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA REMAINS THE ISSUE OF TAIWAN. BOTH HSU AND WANG THOUGHT THE ISSUE SHOULD NOT EVEN BE THE SUBJECT OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES, SINCE IT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER TO BE RESOLVED BY THE CHINESE PEOPLE. WHEN EMBOFF INTRODUCED THE SUBJECT OF HOPEFULLY FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, HSU INDICATED THAT AFTER MANY YEARS OF FIGHTING WITH THE REGIME ON TAIWAN, CHINA DID NOT FEEL THAT THE ISSUE COULD BE SOLVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS. EMBOFF INDICATED THAT THIS KIND OF CHINESE POSITION DID NOT HELP THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION. HSU REPLIED THAT THE CHINESE POSITION IS MOST CLEAR; HE SAID THAT THE U.S. POSITION WAS NOT ONLY UNCLEAR, BUT THAT THE TRIP TO CHINA BY SECRETARY VANCE HAD FURTHER MUDDIED THE WATERS. HSU INDICATED THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD FIRST "SOLVE" ITS BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH TAIWAN; THEN, THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES COULD BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE TAIWAN ISSUE.

3. CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES: COMMERCIAL
IN A RELATED DISCUSSION OF TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES, HSU SAID THAT CHINA WOULD PREFER TO ACQUIRE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FROM THE UNITED STATES --
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BASICALLY BECAUSE IT IS THE BEST AVAILABLE -- BUT THIS OPTION IS NOT "PRACTICAL" FOR CHINA BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HSU SAID THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE EDOR FACTORS N INFLUENCING THE CHINESE DECISION TO SEEK ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN EUROPE. HSU MADE NOTE OF THE CHINESE DESIRE TO INSURE THAT ITS FOREIGN PURCHASES ARE SUFFICIENTLY DIVERSIFIED SO AS TO PREVENT THE KIND OF PROBLEMS THAT DEVELOPED FOLLOWING THE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM CHINA IN THE SIXTIES, BUT HE STILL MAINTAINED THAT THE UNITED STATES OFFERS CHINA THE BEST POTENTIAL MARKET FOR ACQUIRING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

4. CHINA AND THE MIDDLE EAST: IN A DISCUSSION OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST, BOTH HSU AND WANG

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 37430

USED IDENTICAL CHINESE TERMINOLOGY IN STATING THE
CHINESE POSITION: THE CHINESE FAVOR A UNITED ARAB
POSITION THAT LEADS TO PEACE IN THE AREA, AND THE
DIMINUTION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE. BOTH PRAISED THE
SADAT INITIATIVE. BOTH NOTED THAT CHINA DOES NOT
REGARD THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL AS EITHER DESIREABLE
OR POSSIBLE. HSU SAID THAT ISRAEL HAS BEEN A SOVEREIGN
STATE FOR MANY YEARS, AND IT IS RIDICULOUS FOR THE
ARABS CONTINUALLY TO CALL FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL.
HSU THOUGHT THAT THE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN IRAQ AND
LIBYA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CURRENT IMPASSE, AND LACK
OF REASONABLE ATTENTION TO THE REALITIES OF THE SITU-
ATION TODAY. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT CHINA MIGHT PLAY A
USEFUL ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BY PUBLICLY SUPPORTING
THE SADAT INITIATIVE. HSU SAID THAT CHINA'S POSITION IS
TO SUPPORT ARAB UNITY, AND PREFERS THE COUNTRIES
INVOLVED FIND A SOLUTION WITHOUT ANY EXTERNAL PRESSURES.
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EMBOFF NOTED THAT THE SOVIET POSITION AND INFLUENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST MADE IT IMPRACTICAL FOR A MAJOR POWER
TO REMAIN MUTE CONCERNING SUCH AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. HSU
SOUGHT REFUGE IN THE WELL-WORN CHINESE POSITION

THAT CHINA IS NOT A MAJOR POWER, BUT PART OF THE THIRD
WORLD.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE STRUCK BY THE CONSISTENCY OF WHAT
EACH OFFICIAL SAID TO OUR EMBOFF IN SEPARATE
DISCUSSIONS, AND SUGGEST THAT THEY MAY WELL HAVE BEEN
SPEAKING FROM GUIDANCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO THEIR
EMBASSY RATHER THAN EXPRESSING PRIVATE OPINIONS. WE
PARTICULARLY NOTED THE HARDENED POSITION ON TAIWAN AS
STATED BY HSU, WHO IS THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SECTION AND
AN EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT. HSU WAS SUFFICIENTLY EXPLICIT
AND REPETITIVE ON THE TAIWAN QUESTION TO INDICATE TO US
THAT HE FULLY EXPECTED HIS COMMENTS TO REACH
WASHINGTON.
HARTMAN

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TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, US, CH, TW, XF, IS
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